



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 7, 2022

**Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD
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Governor's Bill No. 5046 An Act Adopting the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is pleased to support Governor's Bill 5046, which would add Connecticut to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLCC) and Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (Psypact). Joining these two compacts in Connecticut will facilitate telehealth and in-person practice across state lines for physicians and psychologists who choose to participate in the compacts, while ensuring the public protections provided by traditional single state licensing. In addition to the Department's support of this bill, the Connecticut Medical Examining Board unanimously voted to endorse Connecticut joining the IMLCC at its January 18, 2022, meeting. The Department would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

During the declared COVID-19 emergency, executive orders suspended in-state licensure requirements for certain out of state licensed practitioners. These orders enabled out of state licensed practitioners to practice in Connecticut without obtaining a Connecticut license under certain conditions and within limited timeframes. As these orders expire, these compacts will allow physicians and psychologists to continue to practice across state lines (in other compact states), expanding the pool of providers available to Connecticut residents, and will allow Connecticut providers to see out of state patients with greater ease.

Participation in the Psypact will help address the ongoing mental health crisis by authorizing psychologists licensed in other participating states to provide telehealth services to Connecticut residents. Psypact also allows participating psychologists to work in-person in Connecticut for a limited period of time each year. Psypact will allow Psypact participating psychologists in 27 states to provide services in Connecticut.

Participation in the IMLCC will allow Connecticut-licensed physicians who join to benefit from the expedited licensure process afforded by the IMLCC in the 34 participating states. Based on other states' experiences, the Department anticipates a 10 to 15% increase in the number of physicians licensed in Connecticut, if the Legislature adopts the IMLCC.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to present this testimony in support of this legislation that will benefit Connecticut's systems of care and offer benefit to physicians and psychologists licensed in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

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